

With respect to the §112 rejections, we would like to point out that the application describes, on page 5, lines 7-10, that a user may interactively set boundary conditions by specifying selection criteria through a data input device, and the system then depicts or superimposes the corresponding boundaries on the display. As described on page 6, lines 2-5, the system may dim points inside the boundaries, change their color, and so forth, to visually distinguish the points inside and outside of the boundaries. In addition, the specification, on page 8, line 1-3, describes distinguishing out-lyer points, that is, points outside of a particular boundary, from non-selected points inside the boundary by displaying the out-lyer points in colors that differ from the colors of the non-selected points, by depicting the background beyond the boundaries in different colors, and so forth.

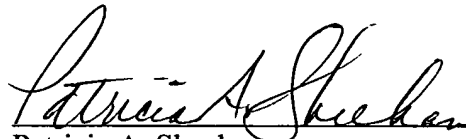
The user may interactively change the selection criteria and the system then depicts new boundaries on the display. Page 5, lines 8-10; page 6, lines 6-20; page 7, lines 16-25. The specification states that the new boundaries can be included on the display in two ways – they can be added to the boundaries that are currently displayed or they can be re-positioned on the display such that the older boundaries and any related changes to the visual properties that distinguish points with respect to the older boundaries are removed. See, page 7, lines 21-23. Depicting only the boundaries that meet the new selection criteria necessitates re-setting the display, to remove the boundaries that correspond to the old selection criteria and return the visual properties that distinguish points with respect to the older boundaries.

Accordingly, the steps of independent method claim 7 and claims 8-11 that depend therefrom and the apparatus of independent claim 12 are thus supported by the specification in a manner that enables one skilled in the art to make or use the invention.

In light of the above and the Terminal Disclaimer filed herewith, we ask that the Examiner reconsider his rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Sheehan", is written over a horizontal line.

Patricia A. Sheehan

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